

Gentlemen:

I am writing this letter to express my concern and opposition to HB5447. I have been in special education since 1974. My career has spanned 42 years in the states of Missouri, California, New York and Connecticut. I have had the privilege of serving students of all disabilities as a self-contained special education teacher, resource specialist, educational examiner, itinerant special education teacher, home school special education teacher, general education teacher, program specialist, itinerant special education administrator preschool through age 21, district director of pupil personnel services, director of cooperative special education services and director of education for a state approved special education private school. I understand the complexities and concerns of monitoring and containing the high costs of special education especially for our students with the most challenging and often concomitant disabilities. While I applaud the State's intent of containing high costs with HB5447, I believe it requires a much broader discussion from the field to include both private and public teachers, administrators, service providers and parents. The solutions to this issue should not be without thorough understandings and inclusions of the vast and varied problems that they represent. I urge you to postpone the submission of this bill until all sectors of the profession and parents who can equally contribute to the solutions can be heard.

Most Respectfully,

Mary Ellen Betzler

Director of Education

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Sent from my iPhone

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